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EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1954

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EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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COUNCILLOR RICHARD SMITH, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—

COUNCILLOR GORDON HENDERSON

COUNCILLORS—

Coun. T. Akenhead	Coun. W. R. Gowland
„ A. Allen	„ H. Groves
„ R. M. Allison	„ E. Harper
„ J. Bainbridge	„ J. W. Hays
„ J. Burnip	„ F. Hutchinson
„ Mrs. E. Beaumont	„ J. J. Johnson
„ Mrs. W. E. Booth	„ A. Langthorne
„ W. F. Butt	„ J. P. McMann
„ E. Cain, J.P.	„ Mrs. I. McManners
„ T. J. Charters	„ T. Metcalfe
„ W. Collinson	„ Mrs. M. Monk
„ J. Cowie	„ H. O'Neill, J.P.
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„ T. Curry	„ M. Purcell
„ J. B. Davison	„ R. W. Rowe
„ W. Farmer	„ W. S. Shipman
„ G. Forbes	„ E. Sullivan (from 6-5-54)
„ J. Fort (deceased 21-3-54)	„ R. Tait
„ T. Gallagher	„ J. Williams
„ W. Gilchrist	„ G. A. Yews

Clerk—J. W. Gray.

Accountant—E. L. Allison, A.I.M.T.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Acting Medical Officer of Health—J. E. D. MILLER, M.B., B.S.
(to 3-11-54).

Medical Officer of Health—J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
(from 4-11-54).

Senior Sanitary Inspector—R. E. V. WARRAND, Cert.S.I.B.,
M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector—J. R. DAY, Cert.S.I.B.

Sanitary Inspector—T. J. RICHARDS, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector—G. STODDART, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector—P. E. BUDD, Cert.S.I.B.

Sanitary Inspector—P. F. JONES, Cert.S.I.B.

Sanitary Surveyor—R. R. LUMSDEN, Dip.M.Eng.

Cleansing Superintendent—J. W. MOORE (to 20-11-54).
D. WARD (from 20-12-54).

Water Superintendent—G. WATSON.

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1954.

EASINGTON,

Co. DURHAM.

1955.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1954.

The work accomplished by the department during the year, only the last two months of which I supervised as your Medical Officer of Health, is described in the various sections of the report. The section relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector's department has been compiled by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Contributions from the Engineer and Surveyor and the Cleansing Superintendent are also included.

The main points of interest contained in the body of the report are summarised in this introductory letter with brief comment where necessary.

VITAL STATISTICS

This heading includes the figures or rates which allow a comparison to be made between the health of the inhabitants of the district in different years and the health of the country as a

whole. They include the birth rate, the general death rate, the infantile mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate.

BIRTH RATE

The figure of 17·9 per 1,000 of the population shows a slight decrease on that of 18·1 for 1953, but it remains higher than the rate for England and Wales (15·2).

GENERAL DEATH RATE

The figure for the general death rate was 10·05 per 1,000 of the population, a decrease of 0·14 on that for 1953 which was 10·19. It compares favourably with that of 11·3 for England and Wales and is only 0·13 per 1,000 higher than the figure of 9·92 for 1948 which was the lowest death rate on record for the Easington Rural District.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infantile mortality rate is the number of children under one year of age who die out of every 1,000 live births, and is a factor of considerable importance in assessing the general health of the district.

The rate for this area in 1954 was 25·7, a decrease of 14 on the figure for 1953 which was 39·8. This rate is easily a district record and almost equal to that of 25·5 for England and Wales which, incidentally, is the lowest ever national infantile mortality rate.

Whilst there appears to be no direct reason for such a welcome and substantial decrease in the district rate, it may be that better housing, less poverty, and a higher standard of mothercraft have contributed largely to the decrease in infant deaths from 59 in 1953 to 38 for the year under review.

Out of this total of 38 deaths in infants under one year 27 (71%) occurred in the first four weeks of life, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 18·2 per 1,000 live births. In 10 of these prematurity was given as the primary cause of death and in three as contributory. The death rate of infants under four weeks is only 0·5 per 1,000 higher than the figure of 17·7 for England and Wales.

There was one death from diarrhoea and enteritis in children under two years of age as compared with seven in 1953.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths in the district during the year.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH

A scrutiny of the table giving the individual causes of death shows that heart disease retains its position at the head of the list, while cancer regains second place displacing diseases of the blood vessels of the brain to third position. Bronchitis and pneumonia come fourth and altogether these four causes have been responsible for almost 72% of the total deaths in the district during 1954.

TUBERCULOSIS

The statistics for this disease are set out and summarised in the relevant section of the report.

There was a decrease in the number of new cases of both forms of the disease. The number of deaths was also lower, being 12 from pulmonary tuberculosis compared with 13 in 1953 and none in the non-pulmonary form as against two the previous year. Mortality rates for the district are pulmonary 0·145 and non-pulmonary nil per 1,000 population as compared with the national rates 0·160 and 0·019.

All 25 milk samples submitted during the year to biological examination for tubercle bacilli were found to be negative. Thus for the past four years careful sampling in all parts of the district has failed to produce a positive result.

The Regional Hospital Board Mass Radiography Unit visited Horden on the 15th February and remained there for two weeks. There was a satisfactory response from the general public in this neighbourhood, 1,378 persons attending for X-ray. On the 31st May 208 employees of a factory in the district took advantage of a one-day visit from the unit and at Wheatley Hill between 30th August and 3rd September 1,073 persons were X-rayed. The last mass radiography survey for the district was carried out at Murton from 22nd to 26th November where there was an attendance of 1,063.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The notifications of these diseases are set out in Table 7 which also gives the final figures after correction.

The incidence of scarlet fever decreased, only 43 cases being notified as compared with 82 in 1953 and 175 in 1952. There were again no deaths from this disease.

Diphtheria notifications numbered eight as against four in 1953 and six in 1952. Two of these eight notifications were subsequently confirmed.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of measles, 226 being notified as against 864 in 1953, and for the second consecutive year there were no deaths from this disease.

Whooping cough notifications numbered 208, a decrease of 215 on the figure of 423 for the year 1953 and, as last year, there was one death from this disease.

There were eight notifications of meningococcal infection during the year, only two of which were subsequently confirmed.

Ten cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified. Last year there were five notifications of this disease.

Of the 24 cases of food poisoning notified 12 were later confirmed.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Primary immunisations have increased from 651 in 1953 to 718 and children receiving a reinforcing injection during the year numbered 448 as compared with 375 the previous year.

Whilst the small increases are welcome, the number of children immunised in this area represents only a low percentage of the child population at risk. If in the future the scheme can be extended to the combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic it may well be that more parents would seek immunity for their children. It is probable also that numbers would increase if the school medical department service permitted immunisation of pre-school age children at those sessions undertaken in the schools.

Diphtheria immunisation has done much to remove the danger of this disease from the area. During the years 1951 to 1953 not a single case occurred, but despite advice and propaganda on the need for immunisation of young children many parents remain unconcerned. Evidence of the dangers associated with such apathy has been provided this year in the form of two confirmed cases of diphtheria in the district.

WATER

Routine samples of piped water supply have been taken at various points in the district throughout the year and submitted to bacteriological examination. All 58 such samples were found to be satisfactory.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological testing of throat swabs, faeces, urine and other human specimens is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, Havelock Hospital, Sunderland. Routine weekly samples of ice-cream, water and milk have been submitted for examination throughout the year.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The section of the report dealing with the environmental services has been contributed by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and with it is included a section dealing with housing, water supply and sewerage contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor, and one covering public cleansing by the Cleansing Superintendent. These three sections contain much of interest and, since the contents do not allow of easy summary, they should be read as a whole.

HOUSING

The year 1954 saw the re-commencement of slum clearance in the district. In 1939 the Council made preparation for the clearance of some 546 houses in the "Cornwall" district of Murton, but progress on this scheme was curtailed by the outbreak of war. At the first opportunity the Council has decided that 177 houses, or approximately one-third of the original "Cornwall" programme, be represented for clearance. Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmation of the Order was received in December of the year under review.

STAFF

There were no changes in the Sanitary Inspector's, Clerical and Rodent staffs of the department during the year.

CONCLUSION

From a perusal of the foregoing paragraphs and the figures contained therein it will be seen that the general health of the area can be said to have been highly satisfactory in 1954.

The birth rate of 17·95 for the district shows only a fractional decrease on the figure of 18·1 for the year 1953.

The general death rate, 10·05 per 1,000, is only slightly higher than the district record rate of 9·92 for the year 1947.

The most pleasing feature concerning the vital statistics for the district is the considerable decrease in infant deaths from almost 40 per 1,000 live births in 1953 to less than 26.

Apart from measles and whooping cough, which appear to be always prevalent in the district, there were no major epidemics of infectious disease.

In conclusion I wish to thank all members and officials of the Council for their support, and to express my gratitude to the inspectorial and clerical staffs of the Health Department, particularly Mr. Warrand the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Mr. Branthwaite the Chief Clerk, for their valuable assistance and willing co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. A. RODGERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I.

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	34,653
Registrar General's estimate of resident population year, 1954	.. .. .	82,520
Number of Hereditaments on 31st December, 1954 according to the Rate Books	.. .. .	26,069
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1954)	.. .. .	£341,313
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1953-54)	.. .. .	£1,287

VITAL STATISTICS

Births :—Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	735	721	1456
Illegitimate	11	14	25
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	746	735	1481
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	17·95
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Still Births :—

Legitimate	20	21	41
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22	21	43
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 total births	28·22
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Infantile Mortality :—

Deaths of infants under 1 year :

Legitimate	16	22	38
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16	22	38
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1,000 live births, 25·66.

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1,000 legitimate live births, 26·10.

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.

NEONATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks :

		Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	..	14	13	27	
Illegitimate	..	—	—	—	
		—	—	—	
		14	13	27	
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
Death rate per 1,000 live births	..			..	18·23
DEATHS	..	469	360	829	
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	..	..	..	..	10·05

MATERNAL DEATHS

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

from Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
from Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
						<u> </u>
Total	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
						<u> </u>
Maternal Mortality Rate			..	..	..	Nil.

TABLE 1.

DEATHS—CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH.

	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks- under 1 year	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 up
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	12	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	1	3	—	—
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	143	—	1	—	—	2	—	10	16	32	40	42
Diabetes	9	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	133	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	19	38	64
Coronary Disease, Angina	119	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	21	54	31
Hypertension with Heart Disease	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	9	6
Other Heart Disease	119	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	13	11	25	64
Other Circulatory Disease	29	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	3	8	13
Influenza	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Pneumonia	26	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	5	2	7	7
Bronchitis	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	7	6	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	14	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	4	2	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	7
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	5	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ildefined Diseases	84	16	2	2	1	1	—	3	7	17	14	21
Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	—	—	1	—	3	—	2	—	1	1	—
All Other Accidents	31	1	2	1	1	—	4	7	2	1	1	11
Suicide	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	—
Homicide and Operations of War	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	829	27	11	8	2	10	18	35	80	138	214	286

TABLE 2.

Cancer

The following table gives the deaths from Cancer, in age groups, and the localisation of the disease.

	Ages in Years					Totals
	1 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75 up	
Stomach ...	1	2	7	16	12	38
Lung & Bronchus	—	—	13	5	1	19
Breast ...	—	2	2	4	3	11
Uterus ...	—	1	2	1	1	5
Other Causes ...	2	5	24	14	25	70
	3	10	48	40	42	143

TABLE 3.

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the Past 10 Years:

Year	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
1945	11.0	54.1	21.1
1946	10.1	53.1	21.9
1947	10.8	63.1	22.0
1948	9.9	43.5	21.1
1949	10.3	48.3	19.6
1950	10.4	49.2	18.3
1951	11.6	39.5	18.0
1952	9.9	42.8	17.5
1953	10.2	39.8	18.1
1954	10.0	25.7	17.9

	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
1954			
England & Wales	11.3	25.5	15.2
Easington Rural District	10.0	25.7	17.9

TABLE 4.
Infantile Mortality Rates
(10 years)

Year	Births	Easington R. D. Inf. Mortality Rate	England & Wales Inf. Mortality Rate
1945	1627	54.1	46
1946	1751	53.1	43
1947	1759	63.1	41
1948	1722	43.5	34
1949	1616	48.3	32
1950	1504	49.2	29.8
1951	1468	39.5	29.6
1952	1423	42.9	27.6
1953	1484	39.8	26.8
1954	1481	25.7	25.5

TABLE 5.
Death Rates (10 years)

Year	Deaths	Easington R. D. Death Rate	England & Wales Death Rate
1945	848	11.0	11.4
1946	808	10.1	11.5
1947	862	10.8	12.0
1948	809	9.9	10.8
1949	850	10.3	11.7
1950	857	10.4	11.6
1951	945	11.6	12.5
1952	811	9.9	11.3
1953	834	10.2	11.4
1954	829	10.0	11.3

TABLE 6.
Natural Increase of Population

Year	Births	Deaths	Rate of Natural Increase per 1,000 population.
1945	1627	848	10.1
1946	1751	808	11.8
1947	1759	862	11.2
1948	1722	809	11.2
1949	1616	850	9.3
1950	1504	857	7.9
1951	1468	945	6.4
1952	1423	811	7.5
1953	1484	834	7.5
1954	1481	829	7.9

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1954

Population	.. .. .	82,520
Area (acres)	.. .. .	34,653
Estimated number of Hereditaments	.. .. .	26,069
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1954)	.. .. .	£341,313
Sum produced by penny rate (1953-54)	.. .. .	£1,287
Births	.. .. .	1,481
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		17·95
Deaths	.. .. .	829
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		10·05
Death rate of infants under one year of age	..	25·66

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause	Number	Percentage of total deaths
Diseases of the heart	262	31·60
Cancer	143	17·25
Diseases of the veins and arteries of the brain	133	16·04
Bronchitis and pneumonia ..	56	6·75
Tuberculosis (all pulmonary) ..	12	1·45

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diseases	Cases notified	Number of deaths	Death rate per 1,000 population
Measles	226	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	208	1	0·01
Tuberculosis (all forms) new cases	57	12	0·14
Scarlet Fever ..	43	—	—
Dysentery	29	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	10	—	—
Diphtheria	8	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	8	1	0·01

Influenza, which is not notifiable, caused 3 deaths.

SECTION II.

TABLE 7

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1954

Numbers Originally Notified TOTAL (ALL AGES) ..	SCARLET FEVER		WHOOPING COUGH		ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS				MEASLES		DIPHTHERIA	
					PARALYTIC		NON-PARALYTIC					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	25	18	88	120	4	6	—	—	117	109	6	2
Final Numbers after Correction												
Under 1 year	—	—	8	12	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—
1 — 2 years	5	—	33	35	3	—	—	—	32	17	—	—
3 — 4 years	8	2	27	48	—	3	—	1	28	32	—	—
5 — 9 years	12	11	20	23	—	1	—	—	53	55	1	1
10 — 14 years	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
15 — 24 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (ALL AGES) ..	25	17	88	120	3	4	—	1	117	109	1	1

Numbers Originally Notified TOTAL (ALL AGES) ..	ACUTE PNEUMONIA		DYSENTERY		SMALLPOX		ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS				ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER		PARATYPHOID FEVER		PUERPERAL PYREXIA
							Infective		Post-Infectious						F
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	F
	29	39	12	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Final Numbers after Correction															
Under 5 years	7	11	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 14 years	4	5	8	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 44 years	10	11	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 64 years	5	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (ALL AGES) ..	30	38	11	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37

Numbers Originally Notified TOTAL (ALL AGES) ..	ERYSIPELAS		MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION		FOOD POISONING		OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM		TUBERCULOSIS					
									Respiratory		Meninges and C.N.S.		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	2	2	7	1	12	12	—	1	29	19	3	2	2	2
Final Numbers after Correction														
Under 5 years	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 14 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—
15 — 44 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	16	2	2	1	2
45 — 64 years	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	—
65 and Over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (ALL AGES) ..	2	2	2	—	7	5	—	1	29	19	3	2	2	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The main points of interest in the foregoing tables can be briefly summarised as follows :—

The number of scarlet fever notifications was much less than for the previous year. There were only 43 notified cases of this disease in 1954 as compared with 82 in 1953 and 175 in 1952. Sporadic cases again occurred throughout the year and there was no definite period of increased incidence.

Diphtheria notifications numbered eight as contrasted with four in 1953 and six in 1952. Two of the notifications were subsequently confirmed, these being the only cases of diphtheria in the district since 1950.

The number of cases of measles showed a substantial decrease, 226 being notified as against 864 in 1953 and 1,068 in 1952. There was a heavy incidence of the disease in the last quarter of the year during which 87% of the total notifications were received.

Whooping cough notifications numbered 208 as against 423 in 1953. There was one death from this disease.

Cases of erysipelas numbered only 4 compared with 12 last year.

There were eight notifications of meningococcal infection during the year. Two of these cases were confirmed and there was one death.

Ten cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were reported during the year. Of these, seven were found to be suffering from the paralytic form of the disease, one was non-paralytic, and in two cases the diagnosis was not confirmed. There were no deaths.

Thirty-seven cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified as compared with 19 in 1953.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 48, a decrease of 23 on the figure for 1953.

Twenty-nine cases of dysentery were notified, all of which were confirmed.

Of the 24 notified cases of food poisoning 12 were confirmed, and in compliance with the Ministry of Health Revised Memo 188/Med. a return in the form suggested in Appendices D (i) and D (ii) was made in respect of these 12 confirmed cases as follows :—

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)

1. LOCAL AUTHORITY — Easington Rural District Council :
Year 1954.
2. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected) RETURNED TO
R.G.

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
1	9	2	—	12
3. OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS
Total Outbreaks — 0 ; Total Cases — 0 ;
4. OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE
Total Outbreaks — 0 ; Total Cases — 0 ;
5. SINGLE CASES
Agent Identified—12 ; Unknown Cause— 0 ; Total — 12
cases. (11 cases Salm. typhi-murium ; 1 case Salmon-
ella group—not defined).

SECTION III.

TABLE 8
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following details have been extracted from the Quarterly Reports of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Quarter Ended	Primary Immunisations								Re-inforcing Injections							
	Age at Date of Primary Immunisation								Age at Date of Re-inforcing Injection							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
31. 3.54	109	39	8	4	3	20	5	188	—	—	—	—	60	69	83	212
30. 6.54	111	49	7	3	1	9	—	180	—	—	—	—	47	36	2	85
30. 9.54	104	36	4	4	2	5	—	155	—	—	—	—	32	22	2	56
31.12.54	127	48	6	3	3	6	2	195	—	—	—	—	57	34	4	95
TOTALS	451	172	25	14	9	40	7	718	—	—	—	—	196	161	91	448

SECTION IV.

TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE 9.

Number of Cases on Register at 31st December, 1954.

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			TOTAL CASES
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
302	272	574	168	156	324	898

TABLE 10.

New Cases and Mortality, 1954

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 14 years	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 24 years	9	10	3	2	—	1	—	—
25 — 44 years	6	6	—	2	2	5	—	—
45 — 64 years	9	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 and over	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	19	5	4	5	7	—	—

TABLE 11

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

YEAR	NEW CASES						DEATHS						No. ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male Female Total			Male Female Total			Male Female Total			Male Female Total			Male Female Total			Male Female Total		
1945	29	29	58	26	27	53	17	18	35	5	4	9	189	174	363	206	218	424
1946	47	35	82	21	19	40	18	6	24	7	3	10	207	189	396	185	186	371
1947	59	37	96	21	18	39	13	20	33	9	6	15	234	189	423	189	175	364
1948	51	42	93	11	9	20	15	14	29	6	3	9	254	206	460	193	176	369
1949	38	34	72	10	8	18	20	12	32	6	2	8	261	218	479	198	178	376
1950	41	45	86	7	11	18	14	8	22	2	1	3	287	248	535	199	179	378
1951	26	33	59	4	7	11	13	7	20	1	3	4	282	247	529	180	170	350
1952	30	30	60	7	2	9	8	2	10	—	1	1	283	259	542	177	159	336
1953	42	29	71	6	5	11	8	5	13	2	—	2	289	271	560	169	156	325
1954	29	19	48	5	4	9	5	7	12	—	—	—	302	272	574	168	156	324

TABLE 12.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis between the ages of 15 and 25 years, during the past 10 years.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage of Total Pulmonary Deaths
1945	3	8	11	31%
1946	3	3	6	25%
1947	5	11	16	48%
1948	3	4	7	24%
1949	2	5	7	22%
1950	1	1	2	9%
1951	1	2	3	15%
1952	—	—	—	Nil
1953	—	1	1	7%
1954	—	1	1	8%

TABLE 13.

The following Table shows the number of deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages) during the past five years—the figures in parenthesis indicating deaths occurring in previously notified cases of Tuberculosis.

YEAR	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1950	14 (12)	8 (8)	22 (20)	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)
1951	13 (5)	7 (7)	20 (12)	1 (—)	3 (2)	4 (2)
1952	8 (5)	2 (1)	10 (6)	—	1 (—)	1 (—)
1953	8 (5)	5 (2)	13 (7)	2 (2)	—	2 (2)
1954	5 (4)	7 (7)	12 (11)	—	—	—
Totals	48 (31)	29 (25)	77 (56)	5 (4)	5 (3)	10 (7)

TUBERCULOSIS

The main points of interest in the foregoing tables are summarised as follows :—

Forty-eight new cases of the pulmonary form of the disease were notified during the year comprising 29 males and 19 females. This was a decrease of 23 upon the figure for 1953 which was 71, made up of 42 males and 29 females.

New notifications of the non-pulmonary form of the disease numbered nine, a decrease of two upon the figure for 1953.

Deaths from the pulmonary form showed a decrease from 13 in 1953 to 12, and there were no non-pulmonary deaths as against one in 1953.

The number of new cases among females in the 15 to 45 age group formed 84% of all new female cases.

The mortality rate for the district for the respiratory form of the disease in 1954 was 0·145 per 1,000 of the population, which compares favourably with the figure of 0·160 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole. The non-pulmonary mortality rate for the district was nil as against the national rate of 0·019.

SECTION V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the work undertaken by the Inspectors of this department during the year 1954.

The various tables and statistics show continued activity in all the Public Health Services. In connection with housing in the district, careful inspection of sub-standard property has enabled classification as to the length of life of such houses for the purpose of slum clearance action over the next 20 years. During the year the first post war clearance area, comprising 177 houses in the "Cornwall" district of Murton, received the confirmation of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Council's programme of 164 houses for the re-housing of pre-war slum clearance families was also commenced during the year.

The supervision of food premises has continued to take up a considerable amount of the Inspectors' time, with satisfactory results in all parts of the district.

Centralised slaughtering, which had been in force throughout the country since the early days of the war, came to an end during the year with the re-introduction at the beginning of July of private slaughtering. Further reference to this is made in the section of my report headed "Supervision of Food Supplies".

I am once again grateful for the assistance of my colleagues in the Health Department and for the ready co-operation received from the chief officers.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. V. WARRAND,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

Water undertakings supplying the District are :—

Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.
 Durham County Water Board.
 Wingate and District Water Company.
 The National Coal Board.
 Easington Rural District Council.

Fifty-eight samples of mains water were taken from public stand pipes or consumers' premises and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Sunderland. All were satisfactory.

A typical analysis of a mains supply is as follows :—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS	PARTS PER MILLION
Total Solids	432
Chlorine as Chloride	40
Chlorine expressed as Sodium Chloride	66
Nitrogen as Nitrates	3
Nitrogen as Nitrites	nil.
Free Ammonia	trace
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·008
Alkalinity	290
Total Hardness	384
Suspended Matter	nil.
Iron	nil.
pH Value	7·3

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Organisms visible on agar after 48 hours
 incubation at 37°C. 1 per ml.

Coliform organisms absent from 1, 10 and 100 ml.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to houses (b) by means of standpipes, are given in the following table.

LOCALITY	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Estimated population	Area in acres	Number of houses and other premises with dwelling ac'm'dat'n	No. of Houses with mains supply direct to houses	No. of Houses with mains supply from stand pipes	No. of Houses without mains supply
Burdon ..	83	1286	23			
Seaton with Slingley ..	429	1392	140	177	—	—
Warden Law ..	50	500	14			
Castle Eden ..	359	1542	130	127	—	3
Cold Hesledon ..	1110	1150	320			
Dalton-le-Dale ..	606	691	210	445	85	—
Easington with Thorpe	10589	3716	3052	3049	—	3
Haswell	2662				13	—
South Hetton ..	3281	3767	1862	1728	115	6
Hutton Henry ..	543				17	—
Station Town ..	2366	2016	829	807	2	3
Hawthorn ..	309	1413	134	132	—	2
Blackhall ..	6805					
Hesledens ..	1428	2654	2494	2452	42	—
Murton East ..	9278	1406	2764	2205	557	2
Sheraton with Hulam	124	2346	41	18	—	23
Nesbitt	8	333	3	3	—	—
Shotton	6618	2270	1876	1865	11	—
Horden ..	19537	2453	5723	5717	—	6
Thornley ..	4402	1148	1397	1388	9	—
Wingate	4071					
Wheatley Hill ..	5959	4570	3568	3553	6	9
Trimdon ..	1903					
TOTALS ..	82520	34653	24580	23666	857	57

The following table shows the principal nuisances and defects dealt with during the year under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

	No. of inspections	No. of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Notice
Housing :				
Public Health and Housing Acts ..	2953	244	20	179
Overcrowding ..	63	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Defective	27	13	—	10
Drainage	177	66	4	57
Water Supply	57	23	—	14
Food Premises	935	39	—	33
Shops Act	—	—	—	—
Dairies	86	1	—	1
Slaughterhouses :				
Public)	1984	1	—	2
Private)				
Tents, Vans, etc. ..	28	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ..	3	3	—	3
Factories and Workplaces	58	3	—	1
Keeping of Animals ..	18	8	—	4
Insanitary Aspits and Receptacles	10	2	—	1
Offensive accumulations	51	22	—	18
Smoke Nuisances ..	24	5	—	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ..	833	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	7307	431	24	324

SCHOOLS

Inspections of schools in the district were made in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing facilities. It was observed that there are still several schools lacking adequate hot water facilities and modern sanitary accommodation.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND COLLIERY SPOILBANKS

Routine inspections have been made in conjunction with the Area Inspector Alkali, etc., Works of the Ministry of Health at all collieries disposing of waste on the surface, and where found necessary advice has been given to the National Coal Board with a view to the abatement of any nuisances found. There is yet no apparent improvement at Thornley Colliery spoilbank, but improvements can be observed at spoilbanks where bulldozing is carried out.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The three sites used in the Crimdon area are subject to regular visits, especially during the summer months.

Informal action was taken in the case of two caravan dwellers resting in the Council's area for short periods.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Fourteen Council Houses and 19 private houses were disinfested of bed bugs. Accounts were rendered in the case of all privately owned dwellings to cover the cost of time and materials used.

In 183 cases of infestation of house property by cockroaches, etc., advice and active assistance were given.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

280 visits and revisits were made to houses during the year in respect of infectious disease and food poisoning enquiries and for the purpose of disinfection in the case of the former. The following table shows the number of houses disinfected following infectious disease during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	43
Diphtheria	..	..	..	8
Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	8
Dysentery	..	..	..	25
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	16
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	24
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	10

134

LICENSED PREMISES, CLUBS, ETC.

Thirty-six inspections were carried out at licensed premises and clubs. In many cases the sanitary accommodation referred to in last year's report has been brought up to the required standard.

CINEMAS AND PUBLIC HALLS

Forty-eight inspections were made in respect of heating, lighting, ventilation and sanitary accommodation. Three informal notices were served and these were complied with.

RODENT CONTROL

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the financial year at six-monthly intervals. The following table shows that of the 558 manholes baited 201 gave evidence of rat infestation :—

SEWERS

	No of Manholes Baited.	No. of Manholes Baited showing part takes of pre-bait.	No. of Manholes Baited showing complete takes of pre-bait.	Approximate Cost.	Recoverable by Grant.	Nett Cost to Council.
Maintenance Treatment (Year Ending 31/3/55)	558	133	68	£256 19 8	£128 9 10	£128 9 10

The table overleaf summarises the work undertaken during the financial year. It will be observed that non-agricultural properties inspected either as a result of complaints received or in the course of normal daily routine showed 188 infestations by rats. Twenty-one of these were found to be heavy or major infestations and 167 minor. Eight properties were found to be seriously infested by mice. Altogether 342 properties affected by rat or mouse infestation were treated during the year. It will be observed that more time has been devoted to the inspection of agricultural property in the area, but much more surveillance in this direction is still necessary.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Report for 12 Months ended 31st March, 1955.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL				(5) Agri- cultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) and (3)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	29	23968	1890	25887	140
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of :—					
(a) Notification	9	255	88	352	2
(b) Survey under the Act ..	20	34	28	82	46
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	3	2	5	—
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available).					
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by :—					
(a) Rats (Major)	7	—	14	21	—
(Minor)	17	120	30	167	19
(b) Mice (Major)	—	1	7	8	—
(Minor)	3	125	18	146	—
V. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sect. IV)	27	246	69	342	1
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments (To be completed only if figures are readily available).					
VII. Number of notices served under Sect. 4 of the Act :—					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	14	3	17	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings (see overleaf) ..	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	1	5	16	22	—

Notes

- NOTE 1. With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll for the area.
- NOTE 2. (a) Premises used by the L.A. for the purposes of trade should be entered in Column (3).
 (b) Sewers should not be included.
 (c) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in Column (3). Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Columns (2) and (3).
- NOTE 3. For the purpose of completing Sections II, IV and V, each property should be entered **once only** in respect of inspections, infestations or treatments.

HOUSING

A total of 478 Council houses was inspected during the year either on the occasion of the house becoming vacant or prior to exchange. The general condition of the property was invariably reported and both the Surveyor and the Accountant informed of details of disrepair. A valuable opportunity is given under this system of inspection prior to exchanges being confirmed to recommend refusal where a house is observed to be wilfully neglected or verminous. Colliery property in one parish is also subject to this system.

Twenty requests in respect of Council houses were investigated by the District Inspectors. Reports on the living conditions and circumstances of the applicants were prepared and forwarded to local members for their information and consideration.

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of visits and re-visits	.. ..	1,620
Number of informal notices served	..	135
Number of statutory notices served	..	20
Number of notices complied with	..	89

HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS 1925 AND 1932

In accordance with the requirements of Article 31 of these Regulations the following housing particulars are given in tabular form :—

Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .	553
Number of houses the defects of which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	.. .. .	179
Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	.. .. .	26

Number of notices served requiring the execution of works	20
Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	9
Number of demolition or closing orders made	6
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930	None
Number of Houses demolished	None

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Arising from police reports in respect of persons exchanging toys for rags to children under the age of 14 years in contravention of Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the Council decided to prosecute in three cases during the year. Fines were imposed upon the three offenders.

FACTORY ACT, 1937

During the year 136 inspections of premises subject to the provisions of the above Act were made, principally in connection with sanitary accommodation, and in those factories where mechanical power is not employed to ensure adequate lighting, ventilation, heating, general cleanliness and prevention of overcrowding in workrooms.

Informal action to remedy defects was taken on six occasions with satisfactory results.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

This Act consolidates the Shops Acts 1912–1938. The functions of the District Council are unchanged and limited to administering those sections relating to provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	54	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Auth- ority	81	63	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	22	19	—	—
TOTAL	128	136	6	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	3	3	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	11	—	—	—

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

MEAT

The year 1954 saw the end of centralised slaughtering which had been in force throughout the country since the early days of the war. As from the 29th June of the year under review the Ministry of Food ceased to be responsible for the slaughter of animals, and private slaughtering was re-introduced. This change-over after such a lapse of time was by no means easy in a district such as this. Inspections of all slaughterhouses in the area showed that much repair and alteration were necessary in order to attain a reasonable standard in facilities for private slaughtering, and having regard to the number of butchers requiring licences to slaughter it was found necessary to reorganise the duties of the sanitary inspectors to allow for the inspection of meat whenever and wherever slaughtering was taking place at some 18 registered premises. Private slaughtering and meat inspection is now proceeding smoothly in this district and, bearing in mind the difficulties which had to be encountered in the changeover, it can be said that there has been full co-operation and understanding between this department and the butchers in the area.

On the introduction of private slaughtering arrangements as suggested by the Ministry of Food were made with a recognised salvage firm for the disposal of condemned meat and offals deposited at the Murton Cleansing Department depot.

Altogether 20,012 animals were slaughtered during the year, a decrease of 1,592 as compared with the previous year's total of 21,604. Of these 11,979 were killed at the Ministry of Food controlled abattoir, Station Town. The remaining 8,033 were privately slaughtered.

OTHER FOODS

The inspectors of the department have continued to issue condemnation certificates in support of traders' claims against suppliers. These certificates are normally accepted without question by the suppliers.

During the year 597 stones of other foods were condemned, an increase of 122 stones on the figure of 475 for the year 1953.

Carcases, Organs and Edible Offal condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption during year 1954.

	Carcases, etc.				Lungs (Sets)			Hearts		Kidneys		Livers			Heads and Tongues		Sets Stomachs and Intestines		Udders		
	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork	Ox	Sheep	Pig	Ox	Pig	Ox	Pig	Ox	Sheep	Pig	Ox	Pig	Ox	Pig	Cow	Ewe	Sow
Abscesses						4						158	2								
Actinobacillosis															2						
Actinomycosis															3						
Acute Fever			1c	2 + 2c															1	1c	1c
Bruising and Injury ..	1c																		1		
Cirrhosis							6					230 + 696 (Part Livers)		40							
Congestion					5	1	16														
Cystic Conditions					97	46	10				6	1	22	12	1						
Cysticercus Bovis															1						
Decomposition	1		5 + 2c	2 + 1c	2															2c	1c.
Distomatosis						4							120								
Emaciation &/or Oedema ..	2c	2c	8 + 1c																1	1	
Enteritis		1c															2	2			
Erysipelas				1c																	
Gangrene	1c		1c																		
Immaturity		2c																			
Johnes Disease	5c																5		5c		
Mastitis	1c																		16 + 1c		10
Nephritis				1						14											
Pericarditis								8	6												
Peritonitis																	5	1			
Pleurisy			2		15	3	9														
Pneumonia	1					65	37														
Pyæmia		1c	1	2																	
Pyelonephritis	1c																				
Septic Conditions	1c		1	4c															1 + 1c		2c
Traumatism		2c	1c																		
Tuberculosis	11 + 4c			4	260		88			2		68		2	139	110	7		6 + 4c		2

"C" indicates Casualty Animal.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Slaughtered at Govern- ment Controlled Abattoir ..	1425 plus 14 Casualties	163 plus 56 Casualties	128 plus 171 Casualties	6302 plus 67 Casualties	3377 plus 276 Casualties
Number Slaughtered privately ..	2165 plus 1 Casualty	163 plus 1 Casualty	14	2983 plus 6 Casualties	2691 plus 9 Casualties
Whole Carcases condemned (T.B. only) ..	9	6	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned (T.B. only)	471		—	—	198
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. ..	12.2		—	—	3.2
Carcases condemned (All diseases and conditions excluding T.B.)	2 plus 1 Casualty	11 Casualties	9 Casualties	17 plus 6 Casualties	7 plus 8 Casualties
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned. (All diseases and conditions excluding T.B.)	590		8	294	174
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease or condition other than T.B. ..	14.8		2.6	3.1	2.7

Provisions, Fish, etc., Condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption during year, 1954.

Cause of Unfitness	Provisions, Loose	Tinned Foods	Fish, etc.
Decomposition/Fire	<div> <div>sts. lbs.</div> <div> <div>Bacon and Ham</div> <div>38</div> <div>5½</div> </div> <div> <div>Cooked Ham</div> <div>1</div> <div>8</div> </div> <div> <div>Dates and Figs</div> <div>2</div> <div>9½</div> </div> <div> <div>Eggs (1980)</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div> <div>Eggs (Frozen and Liquid)</div> <div>9</div> <div>7</div> </div> <div> <div>Jellied Veal</div> <div>1</div> <div>6</div> </div> <div> <div>Manufactured</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div> <div>Meat Products</div> <div>19</div> <div>1</div> </div> <div> <div>Meat Pies</div> <div></div> <div>11</div> </div> <div> <div>Sundries</div> <div>1</div> <div>5½</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>sts. lbs.</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	<div> <div>sts. lbs.</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>
Rancidity and Mould Stains	<div> <div>Butter</div> <div></div> <div>7½</div> </div> <div> <div>Margarine</div> <div></div> <div>1½</div> </div>		
Extensive Mould	<div> <div>Cheese</div> <div>5</div> <div>11¾</div> </div>		
Damage by Fire, Contamin. by Mice and Mite Infest.	<div> <div>Cake</div> <div>1</div> <div>0½</div> </div> <div> <div>Cereals, etc.</div> <div></div> <div>12½</div> </div>		
Decomposition due to Blown and Damaged Tins		<div> <div>139 Tins Fish Products</div> <div>6</div> <div>12</div> </div> <div> <div>1179 Tins Fruit</div> <div>211</div> <div>7</div> </div> <div> <div>986 Tins Meat Products</div> <div>189</div> <div>3¾</div> </div> <div> <div>624 Tins Milk</div> <div>60</div> <div>11</div> </div> <div> <div>15 Tins Preserves</div> <div>1</div> <div>4½</div> </div> <div> <div>2 Tins Sundries</div> <div></div> <div>1</div> </div> <div> <div>591 Tins Veg. Products</div> <div>42</div> <div>3</div> </div>	
Breakages		<div> <div>25 Jars Preserves</div> <div>1</div> <div>11</div> </div>	
Decomposition			<div> <div>Fish Cakes</div> <div>11</div> </div>

Total weight of Meat and Edible Offal condemned	3,730 sts. 1½ lbs.
Total weight of Tinned Foods, etc., condemned	597 sts. 11½ lbs.
Total Weight ..	<u>4,327 sts. 13 lbs.</u>

= 27 tons 0 cwts. 7 sts. 13 lbs.

Year ending 31st December	Weight of Meat and Other Foods Condemned			
	tons.	cwts.	sts.	lbs.
1945	25	11	1	10½
1946	23	1	0	5¾
1947	29	13	0	5¼
1948	30	3	7	6¾
1949	24	18	3	10¾
1950	33	3	6	10¾
1951	29	4	3	10
1952	23	7	0	9¼
1953	23	9	3	6¼
1954	27	0	7	13

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924–1952.

Vehicles used for the transport of carcase meat were frequently examined during the year and found to be generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

As a result of complaints concerning the handling and delivery of meat from the central slaughterhouse towards the end of 1953 a meeting was held in early 1954 attended by the Chairman of the Health Committee, representatives of the Meat Traders' Association, local butchers, and your Senior Sanitary Inspector. It was agreed that all persons responsible for the handling and carrying of meat be issued with additional washable clothing and headgear. Delivery vans were to be provided with duck-boards.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894–1909

In September notification was received of a confirmed case of Anthrax in an animal at Warden Law Farm. Steps were immediately taken in conformity with the articles of the Order for the disposal of the animal and the disinfection of the premises. This was the first case to be notified in the district for many years.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933–1954

All animals were stunned and slaughtered by competent licensed slaughtermen and all precautions taken to prevent any unnecessary suffering by the animals.

The number of licences issued during the year to persons authorising them to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse or knackers yard was 39, including seven renewals. The total number of licensed slaughtermen at the end of the year was 102.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

No notifications in respect of affected animals were received during the year under the above Order.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

In the rural district regular inspections continued to be made of all premises where food is prepared or stored for purposes of sale. Wherever it has been felt necessary, district sanitary inspectors have urged traders to provide refrigeration equipment.

The types of food premises registered, visited and subject to informal action during the year are detailed in the following table :—

Premises	Number Registered	Number of Inspections	Notices Served	Notices Complied With
Fried Fish Shops	58	96	14	17
Butchers' Shops	59	165	6	2
Ice Cream Shops	140	267	3	2
Restaurants, etc.	Nil	40	4	4
Other Food Prem.	Nil.	2555	43	40
TOTALS	257	3123	70	65

Eighteen applications for registration of premises for "The sale of ice-cream" under Section 14 of the Act were received during the year, all of which were approved. In the majority of cases the applications, by mutual consent, were not submitted for consideration until the shopkeeper had discussed his proposal with the inspector for the particular district and satisfied him on the arrangements provided.

Ice-cream samples numbering 143 were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Sunderland for bacteriological examination. The villages at which the samples were collected and their grading are shown in table form. All samples attaining grades one and two are regarded as satisfactory. It will be observed from the following comparison that the steady improvement shown in recent years has not been fully maintained, and steps have been taken where necessary to rectify this.

Year	No. of samples taken	No. satisfactory	Percentage satisfactory
1950	155	127	82%
1951	163	145	89%
1952	136	126	93%
1953	132	129	98%
1954	143	135	94%

(All samples submitted to Methylene Blue Reduction Test)

An additional 34 samples of ice-cream manufactured within the rural district were collected for fat analysis and examined by Mr. W. Gordon Carey, Public Analyst, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING—YEAR 1954

District	Methylene Blue										Fat Content			
	Grades										Above	%	Below	%
	1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%	5	%				
Blackhall ..	2	66.7	1	33.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	100.0	—	—
Dalton-le-Dale ..	4	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Easington ..	6	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Easington Colliery	9	64.3	2	14.3	2	14.3	1	7.1	—	—	4	57.2	3	42.8
Haswell ..	1	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hawthorn ..	6	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Horden ..	14	87.6	1	6.2	—	—	1	6.2	—	—	2	50.0	2	50.0
Murton ..	15	93.8	1	6.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	100.0	—	—
New Seaham ..	1	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peterlee ..	1	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shotton ..	10	83.4	1	8.3	—	—	1	8.3	—	—	3	100.0	—	—
South Hetton ..	5	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Station Town ..	8	88.9	1	11.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thornley ..	5	83.3	—	—	1	16.7	—	—	—	—	4	100.0	—	—
Wheatley Hill ..	14	93.3	—	—	—	—	1	6.7	—	—	3	100.0	—	—
Wingate ..	26	92.8	1	3.6	—	—	1	3.6	—	—	6	100.0	—	—
TOTAL	127	88.8	8	5.6	3	2.1	5	3.5	29	85.3	5	14.7		

Total Methylene Blue Samples 143

Total Fat Content Samples 34

MILK SUPPLY—SUPERVISION

Regular inspections of dairies have been carried out by the sanitary inspectors and any infringements of the Regulations have been reported to those concerned.

Milk samples submitted for examination during the year totalled 401 consisting of 58 samples of raw milk, of which 34 were tested for keeping quality and cleanliness, 318 samples of pasteurised and sterilised which were subjected to additional tests designed to establish the efficiency of heat treatment, and 25 samples taken for detection of tubercle bacilli. Arising from the latter examination all samples proved negative.

On four occasions when raw milk samples failed to satisfy the prescribed tests and the District Inspectors reported favourably on the distributors' premises and methods, copies of the bacteriologist's reports were forwarded for information to the County Milk Production Officer.

Six unsatisfactory results were received from pasteurised milk samples. These were referred to the appropriate County Health Inspectors, by whose Authority the establishments were licensed. All sampling work is shown in the table overleaf.

During the course of the year 286 inspections of distributors' premises were made and one informal notice served in respect of infringements of the provisions of the Regulations. In this case ready compliance with the terms of the notice was obtained.

MILK SAMPLING.

401 samples of raw and heat treated milk were taken for examination during 1954, with the following results :—

	No. of Samples Taken	Methylene Blue Test				Phosphatase Test				Turbidity Test				Biological Examin- ation for Tuberculosis			
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Inconclusive	% Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Inconclusive	% Unsatisfactory	Negative	Positive	Inconclusive	% Positive	Negative	Positive	Inconclusive	% Positive
Ungraded Milk ..	27	12	3	—	20·0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—
T.T. Milk ..	31	18	1	—	5·3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—
Pasteurised Milk ..	207	98	5	—	4·9	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised Milk ..	92	45	1	—	2·2	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised Milk ..	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING, WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

(Contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor)

HOUSING

The construction of new houses in the district continued satisfactorily during 1954, and the supplies of building materials were sufficient to maintain steady building progress.

A total of 152 traditional houses were completed during the year, and the total of houses completed since the end of the war was 2102, making the total number of houses owned by the Council 6808.

Work on the construction of 150 houses to replace families living in Slum Clearance Areas which were actually confirmed immediately prior to the outbreak of war commenced, 20 of which were completed during the year.

MURTON 1914 CONVERSION SCHEME

Approval was granted by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in November, 1951, to the improvement of 102 houses at Murton under the 1949 Housing Act, and 27 houses have been completed during the year, making a total of 55 houses completed to date.

RANGE RENEWAL AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Approval was granted by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in July, 1953, to a range renewal and improvement programme to 1620 pre-war houses. Work has continued satisfactorily throughout the year when 221 ranges were renewed and 286 improvements completed, making a total of 281 ranges and 286 improvements completed to date.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

A total of 20852 pre-war housing and 10708 post-war housing repairs have been carried out during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Number of houses with mains supply from standpipes :—

Castle Eden	..	..	..	Nil.
Haswell	..	..	..	13
South Hetton	..	..	..	115
Hutton Henry	..	..	..	20
Station Town	..	..	..	1
Sheraton and Hulam	Nil.
Nesbitt	Nil.
Thornley	12
Wingate	Nil.
Wheatley Hill	6
Trimdon	Nil.

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RESERVOIRS

Daily inspections were made of the two service reservoirs owned by this Council, one at Thornley capacity 750,000 gallons, and the other at Haswell capacity 148,200 gallons, graph records were made of the daily water levels and records of the quantity pumped daily at the New Winning.

Haswell Reservoir was emptied, and thoroughly cleaned out after consultations with the M.O., due to the fact that on Saturday, 12th June, 1954, the police recovered from this reservoir the body of a man previously reported to them missing, the usual precautions were taken regarding the staff employed in this work, all men engaged were subject to a blood test arranged by the M.O.H. Department before being allowed in the reservoir.

WASTE PREVENTION

In the Council's supply area a regular routine inspection of domestic fittings was carried out on all properties, including the re-washing of taps and ball taps, free of charge. The position with regard to waste water is satisfactory.

DISTRICT METERS

Sixteen meters are read fortnightly and consumption recorded.

QUARTERLY METERS

Eight additional meters were installed during the year bringing the total to 169—155 are the property of the Council and are supplied on a rental basis.

NEW WORK

For further housing development in the Wheatley Hill area the following mains were laid :—

340 yds. 4 in. Main.

400 yds. 3 in. Main.

with lead connections to curtilage of property. Five new hydrants were installed.

To improve supply to houses situated near Mill Hill Reservoir, Stockton Road, Easington Village, the following mains were laid :

95 yds. 3 in. Main.

MAINTENANCE TO MAINS

Throughout the district several minor main fractures were repaired, and in Haswell, Wheatley Hill and Hutton Henry areas $\frac{3}{4}$ in. \times 1 in. W.I. sub-mains had to be renewed.

SOFT WATER DISTRIBUTION

There is no change in the area, the only villages deriving benefits of the blended water, through the introduction of the Burnhope Pipe Line into this area are :—

Murton
South Hetton
Easington
Dalton-le-Dale

The southern area covering the largest portion of this Council's water distribution is still hard, being drawn from the Magnesian Limestone Band at the New Winning.

SEWERAGE

SHOTTON. An inspection of complaints of smells in the Rose Cottage area Shotton, revealed a 200 yard length of old 6 in. sewer which had been originally laid in open joints. This length was taken up and reconstructed which obviated any further complaints.

A complaint was received in June, 1954, that two cows had been found dead beside a beck which runs through the "Tile Sheds", Shotton, and hence through land owned by the Council. Both the Council and the National Coal Board were approached by the owner's Solicitors. As a result of several consultations, inspections etc., the Council strongly resisted the claim for compensation.

A further complaint from the White House Farm area Shotton, revealed 80 yards of 9 in. sewer in a deteriorated condition. The whole length was reconstructed.

SOUTH HETTON. An inspection of a flooding complaint at Donald Avenue, South Hetton, revealed several cracked and broken 6 in. pipes. 20 yards of 6 in. sewer was reconstructed.

During an abnormal storm on 28th May, 1954, the sewer in Fallowfield Terrace which joins the Haswell to the Sea Sewer became surcharged when a general backing up took place and severe flooding occurred in Fallowfield Terrace. To eliminate any further trouble a relief sewer was laid consisting of 320 yards of 9 in. glazed earthenware pipes together with the necessary manhole. Since several severe storms have been experienced since the completion of this work no further similar recurrence has taken place.

HASWELL. A considerable length of the main Haswell to the Sea outfall sewer has been deteriorating annually due to mine subsidence. Cast Iron Pipes have now been delivered to reconstruct the whole length affected.

WINGATE. An inspection of smells and flooding at Wellfield, Wingate, revealed an old 6 in. sewer, 220 yards in length having been laid in open joints. This length was taken up and properly reconstructed.

MONK HESLEDEN. An inspection of various complaints of flooding at Blackhall, showed that the main Outfall Sewer through Blue House Gill was surcharged. 75% of the discharge from the Blackhall area is served by this sewer, into which the Wingate to the Sea also discharges. A length of 2,500 feet of 12 in. relief sewer was laid from a point on the Wingate to the Sea Scheme to connect the Limekiln Gill Outfall Sewer. This work, together with the necessary manholes and weirs was completed at a cost of £2,100, and considerably relieved the Blackhall area.

HORDEN. Tidal erosion in the area where one of the Council's outfall sewers discharges to the sea at Blackhills Gill caused undermining of the cast iron pipes. By a system of packing with sandbags filled with ciment fondu and secured with wired stays this work was successfully completed during the early morning low tide.

MURTON. During a storm sewage backed up in the yards of houses in back Brooklyn Street. After regrading 50 feet of 9 in. sewer and installing 2 No. New Manholes, this work obviated any further complaints of this nature.

GENERAL. The general maintenance of all main sewers, Pumping Stations, Sewage Disposal Works, etc., has received attention and the overall general position is fairly satisfactory.

Discussions took place with the Peterlee Development Corporation and Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the proposed Joint Sewage Scheme. This scheme will replace the present continuously discharging Horden Dene Sea Outfall by a new controlled discharge outfall in the same Dene. Under the new scheme sewerage will be stored during unfavourable tidal current conditions and discharged when conditions are favourable.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(Contributed by the Cleansing Superintendent)

COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

The work of the department has been satisfactorily carried out during the year and all complaints received immediate attention. Almost the whole of the district received a twice weekly collection and working arrangements during inclement weather have operated throughout the year with minimum delays.

There has not been any improvement in the amount of stone delivered with miners' coals during the year. In some parts of the district, Shotton, South Hetton and Deaf Hill, the accumulations of stone have become increasingly worse, and periodically assistance had to be given to these districts.

DISPOSAL AREAS

All disposal areas are being worked by the semi-controlled method and although occasional fires occurred no great expense has been necessary to abate this nuisance.

DEPOTS.

During the year the Blackhall Garage was purchased and together with the now completed buildings at Horden Depot, the problem of garage accommodation will be eased for some time to come.

TRADE REFUSE

Trade refuse is collected during normal rounds and quarterly accounts submitted. The charge of 7d. per bin. or its equivalent is in relation to the number of bins or quantity. Eighty tradespeople throughout the district have taken advantage of this service.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During the year two new conveniences were erected but unfortunately the amount of damage to the fittings and buildings is increasing and drastic action will have to be taken should the Police be successful in discovering the offenders.

SALVAGE

Income from all types of Salvage has been well maintained. 501 tons 6 cwts. 2 qrs. of wastepaper and cardboard was sold for £4,030 4s. 9d. Jars, Rags and Scrap Metal, etc., brought in the sum of £1,137 8s. 8d. making a total income of £5,167 13s. 5d. The workmen have been reminded that the answer to a better bonus is in their hands, as I am of the opinion that for the size of the Easington area, at least 70 tons of paper per month could be collected.

William Barlow & Son, Ltd.
West Hartlepool
